

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROTECTING WIRING AND
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE**

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for protecting a conductor in an integrated circuit. A protective covering can be disposed over a conductor for a substantial length along the conductor while allowing a portion of the conductor to be exposed. The protective covering can be configured as a tunnel which runs for a substantial length along the conductor and can be operable to prevent the occurrence of electrical shorts during operation of the integrated circuit. According to one embodiment of the invention the integrated circuit can be configured as a micromachined device with active mechanical components exposed to the atmosphere.

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